

Amendments to the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of treating an acute wound using Use of a wound dressing as for the preparation of a substitute for a biological dressing or skin graft for use in the treatment of acute wounds comprising the steps of

- a) applying the wound dressing to the wound; and
- b) allowing the wound dressing to adhere to the wound for a period of time effective to promote epithelial outgrowth and promote vertical wicking into the dressing, wherein the wound dressing comprises highly absorbent fibers.

Claims 2-8 (cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) [[In a]] The method for the treatment of an acute of treating a wound according to claim 1 wherein the wound dressing comprises which method involves the step of placing a skin graft or biological dressing over said acute wound, the improvement comprising substituting for said skin graft or biological dressing a dressing comprising highly absorbent fibers selected from the group consisting of alginates, viscose, modified cellulose, cellulose, polyester, polypropylene and co-polymers thereof, pectin, chitosan, hyaluronic acid or mixtures thereof, which dressing adheres to the wound while allowing outgrowth of the wound epithelium during treatment.

10. (Previously presented) The method of treating a wound according to claim 1 wherein the wound is a burn.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the dressing is non-occlusive.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the dressing comprises modified cellulose fibers which can absorb at least 25 g/g of deionized water.